

A Semi-Monthly
SUMMARY
of World-Wide
Motion Picture
NEWS

THE CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE EXHIBITOR

Official Organ
of the
INDEPENDENT
THEATRES
ASSOCIATION

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FEDERAL MOVIE TAX STARTS MAY 19TH.

THE ARMY RUNS CANADA'S LARGEST CIRCUIT

THE LEGALITY OF FOTO-NITE

Exhibitors in the West have advised us with some uneasiness that Foto-Nite is invading their territory and have asked us what effect Foto-Nite has on business, and whether or not it is legal.

With regard to the first point, this paper and the Independent Theatres Association have always uncompromisingly held the view that Foto-Nite is detrimental to business. It is quite true that those theatres which employ it, reap initial benefits. But such benefits are invariably at the expense of other theatres. Moreover, even those theatres which employ it have always felt that the initial success does not last long and that the affair soon peters out. However, before it peters out it usually causes confusion, and such confusion is bound to be detrimental not only to the opposition theatres which suffer directly while the Foto-Nite theatres believe to make hay, but it is bound to be detrimental to the business in general.

With regard to legality the position is this. In March, 1940, the matter was taken to court, partly through the instrumentality of the Independent Theatres Association, and a true bill was found by the Grand Jury. Consequently a trial was held before a Jury. However, a motion was made before the Judge to quash the indictment on the grounds that the argument against Foto-Nite was not advanced in proper legal form. The Crown opposed the motion because it held that it did not

(cont. on page 2)

EXHIBITORS AND PUBLIC PROTEST AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

On Wednesday, May 7th, the Hon. J. L. Ilsley, Minister of Finance, announced in the House of Commons that the tax on moving picture theatres, which, according to his budget speech, was to come into force on April 30th, would be deferred until May 19th. It remains, however, at 20 per cent of the gross admission price.

As far as can be learned from the officials in charge of the tax, it will work in much the same way as a sales tax, and will be 20 per cent of the regular amount charged for admission.

A wave of protest has gone up from public and exhibitors on the unfairness of imposing a tax on one type of amusement only. As they have proved from the commencement of the war, exhibitors are desirous of going on doing everything possible to assist the government in its war effort. They are not objecting to the tax as a means of providing revenue for the government. But they feel that all entertainments and amusements should be taxed similarly. And they feel that such taxation, as a whole, should be on a sliding scale similar to the income tax. The low-budget man should pay a tax in accordance with his ability to pay, and those who can pay high-priced admissions should pay a higher tax rate.

(continued on page 2)

CANADA'S LARGEST MOVIE HOUSE OPENED AT CAMP BORDEN

**Lens to Screen 225 Feet — Over 5000 Seats —
179 Army Camp Theatres in Canada.**

Canada's largest movie theatre was opened on Saturday, May 3rd, at Lee Hall, Camp Borden, Ont.

The installation of the equipment, which was undertaken by Perkins Electric, had to overcome great difficulties owing

to the extraordinary size of the hall. The theatre measures 112 ft. by 240 ft., and has between 5000 and 6000 seats. The air content is close to a million cubic ft. Previously there were in the hall a standard stage, two tennis courts, a basket ball

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Exhibitors Decide on Tax Tickets

At a special meeting of all Ontario exhibitors, sponsored by the Independent Theatres Association, at the King Edward Hotel on Monday, May 12th, a discussion took place concerning the Dominion War Tax which comes into effect on May 19th. The following resolutions were passed:

- 1) That the Dominion War Tax be passed on entirely to the public without any deductions whatsoever.
- 2) That all theatres use a separate or specially designated Dominion War Tax ticket.

The resolutions, which were adopted immediately before going to press, amplify, and move along, the lines of our editorial printed on this page, which was written before the meeting took place.

THE CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE
EXHIBITOR

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Legality of Photo-Nite

(cont. from page 1)

know in what other form to advance its argument. But the Judge upheld the motion and quashed the indictment on technical grounds.

The matter was then taken into the Court of Appeal, and the higher court upheld the decision of the lower court on similar technical grounds.

It is to be emphasized that both courts actually said nothing as to the legality or otherwise of Foto-Nite, and that therefore the matter has not yet been decided on legal grounds.

If the matter were to be decided on legal grounds, it is our opinion that Foto-Night would be declared illegal.

**SAMUEL GOLDWYN TO
 DISTRIBUTE THROUGH
 RKO**

George J. Schaefer, president of RKO Radio Pictures, announced that a deal had been closed with Samuel Goldwyn to distribute the Goldwyn pictures. The first two to be released are Bette Davis in "The Little Foxes" to be followed by a Gary Cooper picture.

EXHIBITORS AND PUBLIC

(continued from page 1)

A representative committee met Mr. Ilsley on Monday, May 5th, and although they were not successful in convincing the Minister, he agreed with them that the tax ought not to come into force without proper notice, and for that reason it was moved back to May 19th.

Exhibitors in Ontario are fortunate to the extent that there is, in that province, no amusement tax at present. But all other provinces in the Dominion have taxes, varying from 3 per cent to 15 per cent. Therefore Quebec, for instance, which has an existing 15 per cent tax, will be particularly burdened with the additional federal tax, and it is doubtful whether many of the smaller theatres will be able to continue.

Exhibitors are of the opinion that the tax should be passed on to the public and the odd cents charged wherever necessary. For the industry to absorb the tax in any manner, even by increasing admission prices, would certainly be fatal from a financial and future taxation viewpoint.

As far as is known at the moment, the government has left the question of tax tickets to the individual exhibitor. Exhibitors' opinion, in general, seems to be that tickets should be used for the psychological effect on the public — even though exhibitors would have to pay for the cost of printing them.

Continued efforts are being made to convince government officials of the justification and equity of a sliding scale tax on all amusements and entertainments. Any representations made to this end by individual exhibitors to their local Members of Parliament will undoubtedly be helpful.

STEEP RISE IN U.S. TICKET TAX REVENUE
Further Reduction of Exemption Proposed

In July last the federal admission tax exemption was lowered from 40c to 20c. The rate remained unchanged at 10 per cent, or rather 1c for every 10c or fraction thereof.

The House Ways and Means Committee is at present hearing evidence concerning Treasury proposals to increase the Government's revenue for financing the armament program. One of the proposals will be to reduce the ticket tax exemption further, namely from 20c to 9c and leave the rate again unchanged.

The reduction is expected to bring a further \$55,000,000 into the coffers of the government. If the reduction should be rejected it is possible that the government will fall back upon the reel tax which was levied during the last war, or upon a rental tax. The reel tax was 15c per reel, and in addition all admissions were taxed then at the rate of 1c for every 10c or fraction thereof.

The lowering last July from 40 to 20c has brought about an enormous increase in revenue. During the nine months from July last to March last the ticket tax receipts amounted to \$52,499,059 as compared with \$16,450,315 in the corresponding period a year back.

In March last the tax yielded \$7.1 millions as compared with \$2.4 millions in March 1940, and \$6.5 millions in February last. It is interesting that in spite of that increase collections from the Broadway district fell from \$1.6 millions in February last to \$0.7 millions in March last. However, in April Broadway business has been booming.

The first industry witness before the Ways and Means Committee was Abram Myers, counsel for National Allied Theatre Owners. He urged the abolition of all exemptions, not only for exhibitors, but also for religious and charitable institu-

(cont. on page 4)

**VICHY HELPS NAZIS TO
 SNEAK PIX INTO US**

The Anti-Nazi League has made a protest to the New York Board of Censors concerning a UFA picture "Victory In The West," which, according to the League was brought to the States illegally in that it evaded the censor. The picture was apparently flown from unoccupied France to Dakar and thence via Rio de Janeiro to New York. It is classified as a newsreel, but the League holds that it is not a newsreel and therefore ought to be censored. It has been classified by the Nazis themselves as propaganda, and is alleged to be distributed in the U.S.A. by a high official of the German consulate in New York.

**"SHADOWS OF THEIR
 WINGS"**

The story of the Royal Canadian Air Force, which is doing so much in defence of the mother country, will be told in "Shadows Of Their Wings", to be produced in Technicolor by Warner Bros. with George Brent and Dennis Morgan in leading roles.

Co-operation of the R.C.A.F. in the production of the film was assured at a studio conference attended by Air Marshal W. A. Bishop, in whose honor a banquet was arranged on that occasion.

Representing the R.C.A.F. during the production of the picture will be one of its current heroes, Squadron Leader Owen Cathcart-Jones. He will serve as technical director during the filming of the picture, and will help Norman Reilly Raine, author and scenarist, in preparation of the screen play which is based on the original story by Arthur Horman, who will also co-operate.

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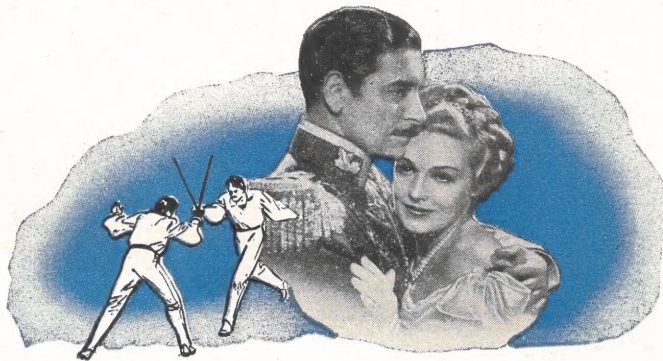
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RELEASED THRU UNITED ARTISTS

LARGEST MOVIE

(cont. on page 1)

court, and six badminton courts, further all the necessary outfit for wrestling and boxing. The hall has 14 windows 9' 4" x 13' high, and 8 windows 9' 4" x 19' high, which had to be provided with draw curtains.

The C.T.R. equipment uses three of the largest speakers, equipped with 54" baffles. The special Marvelite screen built by the Theatre Screen Corporation for this job enables those sitting in the very end seats to see as clear a picture as those sitting in the middle of the theatre.

As the machines are 225' from the screen, more light high intensity lamps and special Baldor rectifiers were used to light the picture. Ilex adjustable lenses with a speed of 2.5 are installed and to assure rock-steady projection extra heavy machine bases were used.

The house opened with "Buck Privates", and a full program of shorts and news. It will play every night.

Apart from Lee Hall there are two other 35 mm theatres in Camp Borden; an Air Force theatre of 550 seats and an army theatre of 2500 seats. Another 35 mm house (500 seats) is at the Air Force camp at Trenton.

In addition Camp Borden has four 16 mm theatres; another four 16 mm places are at Debart, and a further four at Petawawa. All these theatres are co-ordinated with other entertainment besides movies.

All told there are 175 16mm theatres in military camps in Canada. They do not charge admission fees and the film rentals are being paid by the various War Services. The theatres are not a departmental undertaking but are run on a co-operative basis.

Considering the number of houses — 179 — the armed forces are operating the largest movie circuit in this country.

GRAND OPENINGS

MIDTOWN TORONTO

The Midtown 20th Century Theatre opened on May 8th with "Sis Hopkins" before a packed house.

The theatre has a capacity of 1,125 seats, of which 250 are in loges, 250 in the balcony, and the remainder on the main floor. The seats are deluxe heavy duty "Dunlopillo" wide opera chairs. Custom-built, softly cushioned, with restful backs and arms covered in rose to match with the interior decorations, the chairs are placed in a manner to give easy access and plenty of leg room for each patron.

The construction is brick and concrete fire-proof throughout. The spacious foyer, with inlaid terazzo floor, has indirect neon lighting and stainless steel lobby display panels. A complete fully-modern air-conditioning system assures a constant supply of clean, washed air at all times. During the summer months the atmosphere will be cool and healthful.

The arrangement of the seats assures an undistorted view of the screen from all chairs. The accoustics is perfect.

A new feature are the Magic Carpet and Black Light. All aisles are covered with a fluorescent weave carpet whose chemical treatment, when subjected to the ultra-violet ray properties of the Black Light fixtures concealed high in the ceiling, glows and lights the aisles without any visible source of light supply.

There are large restrooms and a large ladies cosmetics room with walled-in mirrors and an ample number of cosmetic tables. Another convenient feature is provided by complete checking facilities.

The Midtown will open daily at 1.30 p.m. (12.30 Saturdays and holidays) and will play continuously until closing time.

CENTRE PEMBROKE

Sam Ulster's Centre Theatre opened May 1st with "Foreign Correspondent". The opening ceremony was performed by Mayor F. W. Beatty. The Centre, which has approximately 500 seats, has a brilliant blue-tone vitrolite facade which gives it an attractive appearance. Inside the walls have a rich shade of burnt rose with blending tones ranging to buff.

The seats are roomy, of rich red fabric with leather covered cushions. The screen occupies a small attractive stage. The air is filtered, humidified and conditioned.

The projection units were installed by Coleman Electric and the sound equipment by Dominion Sound Equipments. Everything is of the latest designs.

The Centre will run a daily matinee at 2.30 p.m. In the evening the box-office will open at 6.30 and on Saturday a continuous show will be run from 1.30 p.m. Midnight shows are planned for after midnight on Sundays, with the box-office opening at 12.05 p.m.

CHARLIE CHAPLIN FESTIVAL

The first series of six Chaplin 1916-18 shorts is in its sixth week at the 5th Ave. Playhouse in New York and the advertisements say that "this program or any part of this program will not be shown in any other theatre in New York before the fall of 1941."

In a letter to the editor of a New York paper a writer complained about the "sound track which has been added to the detriment of the films, I think. It seems to me that a simple musical score would have been enough without all the whistles and cat-calls and noise effects which merely cluttered up the entire performance."

STEEP RISE

(cont. from page 2)

tions. He said those organizations had gone into the entertainment business and should bear their tax load the same as the industry. Where no admission charge is made, or only a slight charge, the tax should be charged on the use of their facilities.

In contradistinction to Canada there is no question in the U.S. of imposing or increasing the admission tax for reasons of curtailing consumption and the spending of money, but the proposed measures are solely a means of raising revenue.

If instead of lowering the exemption limit the government should introduce a 5 per cent rental tax, Myers declared, it should be made clear that the tax must be borne by the distributors, as exhibitors are not in the position to bear it. "The independent exhibitors are small businessmen, exploited by the film trust, whose business is already burdened."

Ed. L. Kuykendall, president of the MPTOA declared: "Because of the insistence of treasury officials on the defence needs, little can be done on admission tax proposals. The MPTOA is working on changing the student tax, and that on men in uniform. However, present proposals may be changed to include all amusements that are now exempt." The MPTOA would "do everything possible to keep the industry from being discriminated against in the matter of taxation."

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"MAJOR BARBARA" HAD AMERICAN PREMIERE IN HOLLYWOOD

Opened at Astor in N.Y.

Gabriel Pascal's production of George Bernard Shaw's "Major Barbara" had its American premiere last week at the Four Star Theatre in Hollywood. Attended by a large list of the screen's most prominent personalities, the premiere was held for the combined benefit of the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund and Bundles for Britain.

Immediately following the initial showing of "Major Barbara" in Hollywood, Mr. Pascal flew to New York for the Eastern showing of his picture at the Astor Theatre. It had a preview on May 13, with the regular continuous popular-price engagement on May 14. A large block of tickets for the preview in New York was set aside for the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund.

Wendy Hiller, who was starred in Pascal's production of Shaw's "Pygmalion," is also starred in "Major Barbara." Co-starred with her in the new production are Rex Harrison and Robert Morley.

"Major Barbara" was both produced and directed by Gabriel Pascal. It is a United Artists release.

MINNESOTA MUDDLE

Federal Government Looks On —
Republic Closes Deal.

After both Minnesota Houses passed the anti-block-of-five bill last month, it was signed by the Governor and became law. The Federal Government declared that it would take no action to test the constitutionality of law. Thus is uncertain where distributors stand. If they sell a whole season's product in Minnesota they may infringe upon the New York consent decree, and if they sell a block of five in Minnesota, they would infringe upon the Minnesota law. There were rumors that one major — no name was mentioned — has instructed its Minneapolis branch to stop all sales in Minnesota until the position is cleared. But it does not look as though it will be cleared in a hurry.

Republic's Minnesota branch has concluded a deal with an Osakis exhibitor, selling him the coming season's entire output under the State law. The exhibitor has the right to cancel a minimum of 20 per cent. of the pictures bought. So far it is not known whether Republic headoffice has confirmed the deal. Republic is not a party to the consent decree.

Although the federal government has declared that it would take no steps for the time being, it is generally expected that the five majors who have signed the consent decree will challenge the constitutionality of the Minnesota law, when their legal advisors have thoroughly gone into the matter.

DISNEY'S WORKSHOP

Walt Disney gives audiences a peep at some of his future productions in scenes of his current full-length feature, "The Reluctant Dragon," soon to be released by RKO Radio.

The story of "The Reluctant Dragon" is laid within the gates of the Disney studio itself. It combines actual motion picture technique with animation sequences to bring a new type of entertainment to the screen.

The feature stars Robert Benchley in the role of a bewildered studio visitor. During Benchley's adventures with Disney and his personnel, his path leads him through the fantastic jumble of the sound effects department where work is going on for a sequence in "Dumbo," the full-length animated feature with a gay circus locale, which Disney and his staff plan to release next summer.

Then he is introduced to the weird mysteries of the multi-plane camera. He is taken up to the top level of the room-sized mechanism. From his perch he looks down through the camera's various levels and sees one of the scenes from "Bambi" in the process of being shot. Bambi is Disney's picturization of Felix Salten's famed story of a deer's life.

Benchley's hero, Donald

ANNA NEAGLE — THE MERMAID

Hollywood has shown movie audiences some unheard of things in unusual dances, but neither Fred Astaire, Ray Bolger nor the Hartmans ever thought of doing a complete dance routine under water.

That's what Anna Neagle does in the title role of her current picture, RKO Radio's "Sunny."

It isn't generally known that back in England Miss Neagle was one of the best feminine aquatic performers; she holds several medals for swim springs, fancy diving and water stunts.

So producer-director Herbert Wilcox capitalized on his star's versatility in "Sunny," in which Miss Neagle performs an entire dance number while submerged in a glass tank.

Ray Bolger and John Carroll head the supporting cast of "Sunny," laid in New Orleans during the Mardi Gras.

Duck, also bobs up in the camera department for another scene in "The Reluctant Dragon." Donald is shown being photographed in the sequence from one of his next year's short productions, "McDonald's Farm."

THE REAL STUFF

Newspaper reporters will have no excuse to criticize the newspaper offices seen in Orson Welles' "Citizen Kane".

Welles made sure that these settings would be entirely authentic through the offices of his old friend, Ashton Stevens, the veteran Chicago drama critic.

Stevens visited Hollywood shortly before "Citizen Kane" went into production to inspect at Welles' invitation, the newspaper sets.

One set represents a city room in the late 1890's. Stevens was able to point out several minor errors.

Welles, who is producer, director and principal actor in "Citizen Kane," first met Stevens in 1930. At that time, the critic saw Orson performing in a preparatory school play and wrote in his column:

"I am going to put a clipping of this paragraph in my betting book. If Orson is not at least a leading man by the time it has yellowed, I will never make another prophecy."

Within a year — when Orson had turned sixteen — Stevens' prediction came true.

GENE TUNNEY RETURNS TO 'INFORMATION PLEASE'

Gene Tunney was one of the first to follow his air appearance in "Information Please" with a bout before the cameras for one of RKO Pathe's reel editions of the quiz feature. He returned to the air in another show last week. Tunney is now Lieutenant Commander James Joseph Tunney, USNR, and director of the athletic program of the United States Navy.

"CAMPUS RHYTHM"

Hal Roach announces the signing of Frances Langford and Johnny Downs as the romantic leads in "Campus Rhythm," one of the first of Roach's streamlined features to be produced for release by United Artists during the coming season.

"Campus Rhythm" is a musical, based on an original story by Leroy Prinz and Hal Roach, Jr. Prinz will direct the production.

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'GONE WITH THE WIND' FIGURES

The picture has, up to the end of April, been seen by 45,000,000 people in 8,500 dates. Total receipts were over \$31,000,000. There are 3,000 more domestic bookings to come.

WHAT IS IN A NAME?

That one does not have to be a good speller to be a good business man was proved by young Teddy Bayonet when he crashed the "Citizen Kane" premiere at the RKO Palace on Broadway, to sell canes. And he sold them too — not missing Orson Welles himself, the Kane of the movie, as he approached the curb for his cab.

Teddy saw "Kane" in the marquee lights and got his hunch. According to the lad, who is a freshman at Textile High School, he gathered his canes in a deal with some vendors over at Madison Square Garden. Maybe that explains who so few canes were sold that night at the circus.

DRAFT LAW CAUSES SHORTAGE OF EXTRAS

For the first time in the history of Warner Bros. studio, it was confronted recently with a shortage of extras. Young men of military age were needed to work in two service pictures, "Dive Bomber" and "Sergeant York."

The young men required, 170 of them, were obtained eventually from the University of Southern California after the Screen Actors' Guild granted waivers which enabled the students to accept the work without first having to join the actors' organization.

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TRIUMPH OF SCIENCE PERMITS "FANTASIA" TO BE RUN ON STANDARD EQUIPMENT

RKO Radio Pictures to Distribute

Walt Disney's "Fantasia," the public showing of which has been confined to a dozen large cities because of the costly and complicated equipment necessary for its presentation, is, at least, through a surmounting of engineering problems to be "road-showed" on a much wider scale than originally anticipated, according to an announcement by the Walt Disney office in New York.

During the past year Disney technicians have been experimenting exhaustively in the attempt to reduce the music of eight sound tracks to film width that could permit "Fantasia" to be projected through standard equipment yet retain all the richness of the original quality of the sound. In recording, the 103 piece Philadelphia Orchestra was separated into nine different instrumental sections, each of which was recorded on nine separate recording channels. 430,000 feet of film were recorded in this manner and re-recorded in Hollywood onto three separate channels and one control channel.

To project this sound in theatres, it required equipment packed into seventy-two separate crates weighing eight and one-half tons, crews of men working day and night for two weeks to install, and the expenditure of tens of thousands of dollars.

Laboratory experimentation and research have at last perfected the method whereby the nine channels of sound may be compressed without any loss of tonal quality upon the single channel of standard width film, making it possible for a great number of theatres throughout the country to roadshow "Fantasia" instead of the restricted number under the original plan.

The conquest of the technical problems involved now enables the Walt Disney organization to broaden its scope of presentation of "Fantasia" and turn it over to RKO Radio Pictures for world-wide distribution.

The same policies and de

luxue form of presentation which distinguished "Fantasia" in all the engagements conducted under the direct supervision of the Disney Company will be followed by RKO. All engagements will be two-a-day and all seats will be reserved.

"Fantasia's" box office gross in its first eleven engagements to date, ten of which are still running, has already reached the \$1,300,000 mark, and the net results in seven of them have exceeded those achieved by "Snow White" in the same cities.

EDMUND GOULDING WILL DIRECT "THE CONSTANT NYMPH"

Edmund Goulding has been assigned by Warner Bros. to direct Errol Flynn's next starring vehicle, "The Constant Nymph." The screen adaptation of the Margaret Kennedy play is being written by Kay Van Riper. Goulding's last previous assignment was the current Bette Davis starrer, "The Great Lie."

WAR ON NORTH ATLANTIC

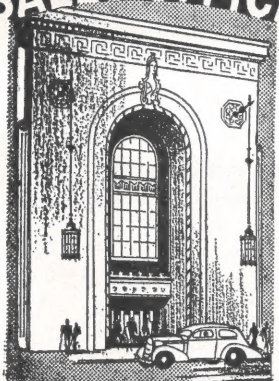
The first motion picture story on the battle of the Atlantic has been brought to the screen in the latest March of Time film, an RKO Radio release, titled "Crisis in the Atlantic." The production portrays the many aspects of the current struggle to keep open the sea lanes over which war materials and foodstuffs are carried to Britain.

The film includes several sequences of exclusive pictures. March of Time cameramen filmed scenes during a voyage from Canada to England aboard a tanker in convoy, and made the first pictures to arrive in the U.S. from Greenland — Denmark's strategic island continent in the Western Hemisphere, now under U.S. protection.

"SAILORS WITHOUT UNIFORM"

This English-made short is being released for Canadian theatrical distribution by Associated Screen Studios. It deals in documentary treatment with the lives of those who put out from British ports with the fishing fleets, and provides intimate glimpses of the sort of men who brave the dangers of mine sweeping and provide the Royal Navy with a large number of recruits to the various branches of the service.

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STARS OR STORIES?

Times change, and taxes too. Ten years ago Constance Bennett received \$30,000 a week from Warners, and now she is doing it for \$2,000. If this were an indication that stardom in general is on the wane, things would be pretty bad. But they are not quite as bad as that. There are still plenty of stars who are drawing \$30,000 a week — not of course that they work every week of the year. But even if they could, they wouldn't.

If a star gets \$30,000 a week, and it takes him or her five weeks to make a picture, simple arithmetics shows that he or she gets \$150,000 for a picture. Now, taxes are so heavy in the United States that the stars of that calibre have found out that they do not net more when they make four or five pictures than they net when they make two pictures.

We don't want to argue here whether they are right to confine themselves to making two pictures only, but many of them do, for instance Cary Grant, Irene Dunne, Claudette Colbert. The effect is that there is a shortage of stars, and that shortage is difficult to overcome, for stars, like Napoleon's corn fields, don't grow in the palm of the hand.

So we may get a lot of pictures of inferior quality, inferior that is, as far as star value goes. But is that the only value a picture has?

Yes and no. It is, if the industry is right. For since its infancy the industry hasn't sold

R.K.O. RADIO BEGINS NEW SEASON'S 2-REEL PRODUCTION

RKO Radio Pictures is off on its production program of two-reel comedies. With the opening of the new show year several months away, the first of the two-reelers starring Edgar Kennedy has just gone before the cameras with Clem Beauchamp directing, and Bert Gilroy producing.

This vehicle marks the 67th short production the comedian has made under the RKO Radio banner. Kennedy has starred in RKO Radio "briefies" for some eleven years as well as appearing in many features.

For the 1941-42 season, the "Slow Burn" star will make a series of six snicker units.

VEIDT INFLATION

Conrad Veidt has received dozens of letters from persons whose last name is Veidt. They all state "I wonder if this is your own name, for I have never heard it outside my own family." The letters have come from such far apart places as Camden, N.J., Fort Peck, Montana, Atlanta, Georgia, Fort Worth, Texas, and Fargo, North Dakota.

pictures but stars, and when it made pictures without stars it looked upon them with the embarrassment with which the Victorians looked upon illegitimate children.

But the industry isn't right, that is, not entirely. Although nobody would have admitted it at the moment — looking back we can all remember pictures which the greatest names couldn't prevent from being washouts.

On the other hand, it takes a hell of a bad actor to spoil a Shakespeare play entirely. So, if there are good plays and non-star actors there is no saying what new heights the industry might attain. And the necessities of war financing may yet turn into a virtue for the picture industry.

OLD-TIMERS COME BACK

One consequence of the approaching shortage of stars is the return to the screen of a number of actors who have retired long ago. The list is headed by Gloria Swanson who plays in RKO's "Father Takes A Wife" with Adolphe Menjou. Ann Harding has been tested by Metro for the role of Spencer Tracey's mother in "The Yearling". Lilian Gish may appear in Columbia's "Ladies In Retirement".

Lilian Gish's last role was in Para's "His Double Life" in 1934. Ann Harding was last seen in 1937 in United Artists "Love From A Stranger". Gloria Swanson ended her career in 1930 in a picture that was never released after more than \$1,000,000 had been spent on it: "Queen Kelly", directed by Erich von Stroheim, produced by Joseph P. Kennedy, later American Ambassador to England. Disagreement among the principals was the reason why the picture was never completed.

Hobart Bosworth has been signed to an acting contract by Warners. His first role will be in support of Frederic March in "One Foot In Heaven."

Bosworth, who won renown as the Wolf Larsen of the 1913 production of "The Sea Wolf," his first film, retired from the screen following an illness in 1921, but returned in 1930 and has appeared in about one picture a year since then. Bosworth is now 74 years of age.

BUSTER KEATON ALMOST JOINED CAST OF "PUDDIN' HEAD"

Buster Keaton was to join the cast of Republic's Judy Canova starrer, the \$750,000 budgeted comedy with music which was placed before the cameras last week.

He was to play Judy's home town hillbilly boy friend who comes to the city to see that it does right by Judy. But he had hardly started when illness forced him to withdraw. Francis Lederer has the lead opposite Judy Canova as a frayed-at-the-cuffs count.

HISTORIC RKO THEATRE REVAMPED FOR "CITIZEN KANE"

The historic RKO Palace Theatre on Broadway, New York, has been given new decoration inside and out for the current road-show run of Orson Welles' "Citizen Kane."

Just above the marquee, covered with three flat iridescent signs, the largest of which is 20 x 9, is a 70-foot neon-effect sign with various size figures of Orson Welles, graduated from 6½ feet high to 25 feet high. The arms slowly rise and fall and at the top extend close to a giant sign reading "It's Terrific." Steam in alternating colors rises from each side of these figures to the triple-flashier "It's Terrific." Above this is a Parisian innovation called a Wonder Sign. This is 30 feet square and within its mechanism is 24,000,000 feet of wire tied in to 27,000 bulbs. There are several stencils carrying billing and catchlines.

Just below the Wonder Sign is a news flash strip with official Trans Radio news along with excerpts from reviews of "Citizen Kane" and various selling phrases.

Inside the Palace on both sides of the house are miniature replicas of Niagara Falls. These water cascades in color are eight feet high. Seven boxes on each side of the theatre were removed to allow for the cascades. Trees, foliage and plants throughout the box areas further carry out the woodland effect. There has been a complete new seat coverage in white and green linen.

An imitation neon display of 18 units highlights the lobby decorations. This marks the first use of this type of lighting in the show world.

SPECIAL "HAMILTON" SCREENING FOR MALAYA SAILORS

Fifty officers and men from H.M.S. Malaya recently were the guests of Alexander Korda at a special screening of "That Hamilton Woman". While the Battle of Trafalgar constitutes only one sequence in the picture, it is presented in all its technical details.

— A BARGAIN —

500 Box Spring Leather Seats

Whipcord Panel Backs

Double Channel Sampson Amplifier

DeForest Sound Heads

Spare Tubes

P. E. Cells - Lenses

ROYAL THEATRE WINDSOR, ONT.

DIGEST of REVIEWS

COLUMBIA

"PENNY SERENADE"

Starring Irene Dunne, Cary Grant (and he's never been better) with Edgar Buchanan making an outstanding contribution is a marital comedy-drama of wholesome Americana that hasn't been done for some time and is decidedly different to those that these stars have been doing recently. A great woman's picture and tear-jerker but so sincerely done and with such good comedy touches that we call it to be a great box-office hit.

"THEY DARE NOT TO LOVE"

Martha Scott, George Brent and Paul Lukas in a current refugee story of the One Way Passage type that drags to a happy ending.

PARAMOUNT

"POWER DIVE"

Jean Parker and Richard Arlen in a better than average programmer that will fit the lesser half of a double bill.

VITAGRAPH

"SINGAPORE WOMAN"

Strictly a re-make but don't quote me on what!

"AFFECTIONATELY YOURS"

Merle Oberon, Brian Aherne and Ralph Bellamy in a triangle comedy that just misses but can be sold on names.

UNIVERSAL

"MODEL WIFE"

Joan Blondell and Dick Powell in a good marital comedy of man's jealousies over wife's modelling career with plenty of humorous incidents. The picture just misses and will have to be double-billed.

M-G-M

"WASHINGTON MELODRAMA"

A fair program picture.

"ZIEGFELD GIRL"

A lavish musical extravaganza with James Stewart, Hedy Lamarr, Lana Turner, Judy Garland, Tony Martin, and a long cast of entertainers and more plot than most musicals. This is very good entertainment with a wealth of selling points and will please everywhere.

"THREE COCKEYED SAILORS"

Edward Small has acquired for release through United Artists the English-made "Three Cockeyed Sailors", a new comedy based on the lighter moments in the exploits between British sailors and the enemy in mid-ocean.

Produced by Michael Balcon and directed by Walter Forde, the picture stars Tommy Trinder, Claude Hulbert and Michael Wilding.

"CITIZEN KANE" SELL OUT FOR OPENING NIGHT AT LOS ANGELES

The opening night for "Citizen Kane" at the El Captain Theatre was sold out for two full weeks. Orson Welles was there for the West Coast premiere. The production started its regular run at the El Captain and the Hillstreet on Saturday May 10th. Big advance sales were reported for both houses.

Another Sparkling Installation . . .

The new Centre Theatre, Pembroke, opened on May 1st. The owner, Mr. Sam Ulster, rightly chose for equipment suited to his needs Brenkert Senarc Lamps, Knitron Rectifiers, Ace Mechanisms and a Datone Screen. The results brought delighted comment.

Of course Coleman De Luxe Bases, Curtain Operators and other Coleman units of refinement lent aid in the smoothness of the performance.

THE COLEMAN ELECTRIC COMPANY

258 VICTORIA STREET

TORONTO, ONTARIO